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19 October 1948

MEMORANDUM TO CHIEF, ADVISORY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Use of Polygraph as an Aid to Clearance for
Special Intelligence

REFERENCE: (a) Memo from Director of Central Intelligence
to Asst. Directors and Staff Heads dated 23 August
1948, Subj: "Study Project on Technical Investi-
gative Methods in Time of Emergency"

1. The use of the Polygraph as part of a Research Project was authorized by the Director in Reference (a), copy attached.
2. This use has been further amplified by requesting all applicants for CIA appointment to participate in these tests.
3. The Chief, Advisory Council has expressed a vital interest in the problem and has recommended that, subject to the voluntary nature of the tests and other restrictions and safeguards established by the Director in Reference (a), its use be made routine in the special investigative procedures required prior to clearance of individuals for Special Intelligence. The Director emphasized its experimental status and that the Polygraph was not intended to supplant conventional investigative methods, but served as an experimental interrogation aid.
4. In agreement with your recommendation, the Executive for I&S will perform Polygraph tests on all persons who may be considered for a clearance for Special Intelligence either now or in the future. The directive of the Director referred to in Reference will make the following procedure necessary:
 - (1) Names will be submitted by the Chief, Advisory Council to the Executive for I & S (Attn: Chief, Security Branch) stating:

"Following persons are either being considered or may be considered for clearance for Special Intelligence. They have volunteered to participate in Polygraph Tests. Will you please arrange appointments directly with them?"

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(2) After these persons have been tested the following report will be made by Executive for I & S to the Chief, Advisory Council:

"The following persons have been tested by the Polygraph with favorable results and the conclusions drawn from these tests do not indicate any reason why clearance should not be granted so long as other criteria are met."

and

"The following persons have been tested by the Polygraph with inconclusive results. This does not mean they are ineligible in any way so long as other criteria for Special Intelligence are met as shown by their full field investigation."

/s/ Sheffield Edwards
SHEFFIELD EDWARDS
Colonel, GSC
Executive for Inspection and Security

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